

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A towing arrangement for luggage comprising:  
  
a tubular member adapted to be retractably mounted to a piece of luggage, the tubular member having first and second ends, the first end being adapted to be secured to the piece of luggage, the tubular member including an internal volume;  
  
a handle which includes a passageway, the handle being adapted to be pivotally connected to the tubular member at the second end;  
  
a joint lock member capable of pivotally connecting the handle to the tubular member; and  
  
a first member external to the joint lock member and adapted to be in communication with the passageway of the handle and selectively in communication with the internal volume of the tubular member.
2. The towing arrangement of claim 1 wherein the first member comprises at least a first protrusion capable of communicating with the internal volume.
3. The towing arrangement of claim 1 wherein the first member comprises a pair of first protrusions capable of communicating with the internal volume.
4. The towing arrangement of claim 3 wherein the pair of first protrusions are in line with and on opposite sides of the joint locking member.
5. The towing arrangement of claim 2 further comprising a second member, the second member residing in the internal volume of the tubular member and including a pair of

second protrusions capable of being aligned with the at least first protrusion and, when so aligned, capable of being at least partially displaced along their axes by at least partial displacement of the at least first protrusion.

6. The towing arrangement of claim 5 wherein the tubular member has a generally oval cross-section.

7. The towing arrangement of claim 5 wherein the tubular member is substantially symmetrical about a plane including the axis of the joint locking member and the cross-section of the tubular member orthogonal to the axis of the joint locking member is not circular.

8. The towing arrangement of claim 1 further comprising a button in the handle in communication with the first member such that depressing the button at least partially displaces the first member towards the tubular member sufficient for a portion of the first member to be capable of extending into the internal volume of the tubular member.

9. The towing arrangement of claim 8 wherein the first member comprises at least a first protrusion capable of communicating with the internal volume and the towing arrangement further comprises a second member, the second member residing in the internal volume of the tubular member and including a pair of second protrusions capable of being aligned with the at least first protrusion and, when at least one of the pair of second protrusions is so aligned, capable of being at least partially displaced along their axes by at least partial displacement of the at least first protrusion.

10. The towing arrangement of claim 9 wherein only when the at least one protrusion is aligned with at least one of the second protrusions, depressing the button in the handle at least partially displaces the first member towards the tubular member sufficient for a portion of the first member to extend into the internal volume of the tubular member.

11. The towing arrangement of claim 10 wherein the tubular member is a single-pole tubular member.

12. The towing arrangement of claim 1 further comprising a set of wheels rotatably mounted on the piece of luggage.

13. The towing arrangement of claim 1 wherein the tubular member is a single-pole tubular member.

14. The towing arrangement of claim 1, further comprising:  
the tubular member having an axis of elongation;  
the handle being mounted on the other end of the tubular member for rotation relative thereto about the axis of elongation, the rotation occurring along a dividing line between the handgrip base portion and the axially adjacent portion of the tubular member; and  
a collar slidably mounted on the handle in surrounding relation thereto for movement in the direction of the of axis of elongation between a first axial position, at which the collar is located on the handle side of the dividing line and permits rotation of the handle relative to the tubular member, and a second axial position, at which the collar axially overlies the dividing line and prevents rotation of the handle relative to the tubular member.

15. A piece of towable luggage comprising:
- a piece of luggage;
  - a tubular member adapted to be retractably mounted to the piece of luggage, the tubular member having first and second ends, the first end being adapted to be secured to the piece of luggage, the tubular member including an internal volume;
  - a handle which includes a passageway, the handle being adapted to be pivotally connected to the tubular member at the second end;
  - a joint lock member capable of pivotally connecting the handle to the tubular member; and
  - a first member external to the joint lock member and adapted to be in communication with the passageway of the handle and selectively in communication with the internal volume of the tubular member.
16. The piece of towable luggage of claim 15 further comprising at least a first protrusion capable of communicating with the internal volume.
17. The piece of towable luggage of claim 16 further comprising a second member, the second member residing in the internal volume of the tubular member and including a pair of second protrusions capable of being aligned with the at least first protrusion and, when so aligned, capable of being at least partially displaced along their axes by at least partial displacement of the at least first protrusion.
18. The piece of towable luggage of claim 15 wherein the tubular member is substantially symmetrical about a plane including the axis of the joint locking member and the

cross section of the tubular member orthogonal to the axis of the joint locking member is not circular.

19. The piece of towable luggage of claim 15 further comprising a button in the handle in communication with the first member such that depressing the button at least partially displaces the first member towards the tubular member sufficient for a portion of the first member to be capable of extending into the internal volume of the tubular member.

20. The piece of towable luggage of claim 19 wherein the first member comprises at least a first protrusion capable of communicating with the internal volume and the towable luggage further comprises a second member, the second member residing in the internal volume of the tubular member and including a pair of second protrusions capable of being aligned with the at least first protrusion and, when at least one of the second protrusions is so aligned, capable of being at least partially displaced along their axes by at least partial displacement of the at least first protrusion.

21. The piece of towable luggage of claim 20 wherein only when the at least one protrusion is aligned with at least one of the second protrusions, depressing the button in the handle at least partially displaces the first member towards the tubular member sufficient for a portion of the first member to extend into the internal volume of the tubular member.

22. The towing arrangement of claim 15 wherein the tubular member is a single-pole tubular member.

23. The piece of towable luggage of claim 15 further comprising a set of wheels rotatably mounted to the piece of luggage.

24. The towing arrangement of claim 15 wherein the tubular member has a generally oval cross-section.

25. The towing arrangement of claim 15, further comprising:  
the tubular member having an axis of elongation;  
the handle being mounted on the other end of the tubular member for rotation relative thereto about the axis of elongation, the rotation occurring along a dividing line between the handgrip base portion and the axially adjacent portion of the tubular member; and  
a collar slidably mounted on the handle in surrounding relation thereto for movement in the direction of the of axis of elongation between a first axial position, at which the collar is located on the handle side of the dividing line and permits rotation of the handle relative to the tubular member, and a second axial position, at which the collar axially overlies the dividing line and prevents rotation of the handle relative to the tubular member.

26. A towing arrangement for luggage comprising:  
a tubular member adapted to be retractably mounted to a piece of luggage, the tubular member having first and second ends, the first end being adapted to be secured to the piece of luggage, the tubular member including an internal volume;  
a handle which includes a passageway, the handle being adapted to be pivotally connected to the tubular member at the second end;

a joint lock member capable of pivotally connecting the handle to the tubular member; and

a first member adapted to be in communication with the passageway of the handle and selectively in communication with the internal volume of the tubular member.

27. The towing arrangement of claim 26 wherein the first member comprises at least a first protrusion communicating with the internal volume.

28. The towing arrangement of claim 26 wherein the first member comprises a pair of first protrusions communicating with the internal volume.

29. The towing arrangement of claim 28 wherein the pair of first protrusions are in line with and on opposite sides of the joint locking member.

30. The towing arrangement of claim 27 further comprising a second member, the second member residing in the internal volume of the tubular member and including a pair of second protrusions capable of being aligned with the at least first protrusion and capable of being at least partially displaced along their axes by the at least first protrusion.

31. The towing arrangement of claim 26 wherein the tubular member has a generally oval cross-section.

32. The towing arrangement of claim 26 wherein the tubular member is substantially symmetrical about a plane including the axis of the joint locking member.

33. The towing arrangement of claim 30 further comprising a button in the handle in communication with the first member such that depressing the button at least partially displaces

the first member towards the tubular member sufficient for a portion of the first member to be capable of extending into the internal volume of the tubular member.

34. The towing arrangement of claim 26 further comprising a set of wheels rotatably mounted on the piece of luggage.

35. The towing arrangement of claim 26 wherein the tubular member is a single-pole tubular member.

36. The towing arrangement of claim 26, further comprising:  
the tubular member having an axis of elongation;  
the handle being mounted on the other end of the tubular member for rotation relative thereto about the axis of elongation, the rotation occurring along a dividing line between the handgrip base portion and the axially adjacent portion of the tubular member; and  
a collar slidably mounted on the handle in surrounding relation thereto for movement in the direction of the of axis of elongation between a first axial position, at which the collar is located on the handle side of the dividing line and permits rotation of the handle relative to the tubular member, and a second axial position, at which the collar axially overlies the dividing line and prevents rotation of the handle relative to the tubular member.